

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03
AGRE-00 ACDA-12 IO-13 NRC-05 OES-09 SOE-02
DODE-00 DOE-15 CEQ-01 SSM-03 /148 W
-----074720 101730Z /46

R 101706Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7759
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAID, EEC, IS
SUBJECT: OUTLOOK FOR JULY 13 EC-ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE
MEETING

1. MISSION IS INFORMED THAT EC-ISRAEL JOINT COMMITTEE, ESTABLISHED UNDER THE 1975 COOPERATION AGREEMENT, WILL MEET AT OFFICIALS LEVEL IN BRUSSELS JULY 13. IN ADDITION TO FORMALLY REVIEWING PROGRESS UNDER THE AGREEMENT IN TRADE AND IN SCIENTIFIC, INDUSTRIAL, AND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE TWO SIDES ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS INFORMALLY: (A) THE PROSPECTIVE OPENING OF AN EC COMMISSION OFFICE IN TEL AVIV; AND (B) THE IMPLICATIONS OF EC ENLARGEMENT FOR EC-ISRAEL BILATERAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS. (SEE PARA 2, BELOW). THE FORMAL AGENDA IS AS FOLLOWS:

- A. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION: TO DATE SEVERAL
- JOINT EC-ISRAEL SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIA HAVE BEEN
- ORGANIZED; THE TWO SIDES ARE EXPECTED TO EXCHANGE

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- VIEWS ON A FURTHER SYMPOSIUM ON SOLAR ENERGY
- APPLICATIONS TO BE HELD AT ISPRA, IN ITALY, BEFORE
- DECEMBER. IN ADDITION, EXPERTS ON BOTH SIDES ARE
- PRESENTLY EXAMINING A NUMBER OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
- PROJECTS WHICH COULD LEAD TO JOINT ACTION BETWEEN
- ISRAEL AND THE COMMUNITY.

- B. INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION: THE TWO SIDES WILL
- EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT VENTURES UTILIZING
- THE SERVICES OF THE COMMUNITY'S BUSINESS "MARRIAGE
- BUREAU" FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZE ENTERPRISES; IN
- ADDITION, COMMERCIAL MISSIONS, INVOLVING BOTH
- ISRAELI AND EUROPEAN BUSINESSMEN, WILL BE PLANNED.

- C. AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES: SUBJECTS SUCH AS
- RECYCLING OF AGRICULTURAL WASTE, BREEDING TECHNIQUES
- IN ARID AREAS, IRRIGATION METHODS, AND REAFFORE-
- STATION TECHNIQUES WILL BE REVIEWED. IN ADDITION
- TO APPROVING EC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN THESE
- AREAS, THE JOINT COMMITTEE IS EXPECTED TO DISCUSS
- COOPERATION IN SETTING UP PRODUCER ORGANIZATIONS
- AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES IN THE AGRI-
- CULTURAL AND FISHERIES SECTOR.

- D. TRADE: THE EC SIDE REPORTEDLY HAS COMPLAINTS
- ABOUT ISRAELI TARIFFS AND BORDER TAXES ON CIGARETTES,
- BEER, WOOD PRODUCTS AND OTHER ARTICLES THAT ADVER-
- SELY AFFECT EUROPEAN EXPORTS; THE ISRAELIS, WE ARE
- TOLD, ARE PRIMARILY CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THEY
- BELIEVE IS AN EC "COMMITMENT" TO RAISE THE LEVEL
- OF COMMUNITY'S TARIFF PREFERENCE FOR ISRAELI FRESH
- ORANGES FROM 60 PER CENT TO 80 PER CENT (BRUSSELS 13329).

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- E. STATUTORY "REEXAMINATION" OF COOPERATION ACCORD:
- ARTICLE 22 OF EC-ISRAEL ACCORD CALLS FOR REVIEW OF
- ENTIRE AGREEMENT AT REGULAR INTERVALS FOR THE PUR-
- POSE OF INTRODUCING MUTUALLY AGREED AMENDMENTS.
- SINCE, ASSUMING COMMISSION CONCURRENCE, A FIRST
- REVIEW IS SCHEDULED FOR AUTUMN 1978, THIS SUBJECT
- IS LIKELY TO BE RAISED AT JULY 13 MEETING. ISRAELI
- OFFICIALS ARE REPORTEDLY OPTIMISTIC THAT ADDITIONAL
- CONCESSIONS IN THE TRADE SPHERE CAN BE OBTAINED
- FROM THE COMMUNITY; HOWEVER, EC COMMISSION REPS
- TELL US PRIVATELY THAT NO FURTHER SUBSTANTIVE
- CONCESSIONS ARE POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME.

2. SINCE IT HAS BEEN A RECURRING THEME IN EC-ISRAELI RELATIONS IN RECENT WEEKS, COMMISSION AND LOCAL ISRAELI EMBASSY OFFICIALS TELL US THAT QUESTION OF IMPLICATIONS FOR ISRAEL OF EC ENLARGEMENT (I.E. THE ACCESSION OF GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL TO THE COMMUNITY) IS LIKELY TO BE DISCUSSED INFORMALLY ON THE MARGINS OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. THE GOI IS CONCERNED ABOUT PROSPECTIVE LOSS OF COMMUNITY MARKET SHARE (ESPECIALLY IN AGRICULTURE) WHICH IT BELIEVES WOULD

RESULT FROM EC ENLARGEMENT TO TWELVE MEMBER STATES;
ISRAEL IS REPORTEDLY SEEKING EC COMMITMENT TO A "HIGH
LEVEL DIALOGUE" AT AN EARLY DATE, POSSIBLY IN PARALLEL
WITH THE ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATING PROCESS. EC COMMISSION,
IN ITS COMMUNICATIONS TO THE EC COUNCIL ON ENLARGEMENT,
HAS ALSO POINTED OUT THAT ENLARGEMENT COULD GIVE RISE
TO FURTHER TRADE IMBALANCES CAUSING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL
PROBLEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA "UNLESS SOME ATTEMPT
IS MADE TO STRIKE A NEW BALANCE AND FIND NEW AREAS
OF COMPLEMENTARITY BETWEEN SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN
COUNTRIES AND THE NEW COMMUNITY" (BRUSSELS 8285).
TO THIS END, WE ARE TOLD BY EC OFFICIALS COMMISSION HAS
AGREED TO "NEGOTIATE" WITH ISRAEL ON TRADE AND RELATED

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
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MATTERS AFTER THE EC-GREECE NEGOTIATIONS ARE COMPLETE
BUT PRIOR TO GREECE'S ACCESSION TO THE COMMUNITY.
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